

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hayakawa, et al.
Application No. : 09/374,344
Title : Method for Photocatalytically Rendering a
Surface of a Substrate Superhydrophilic, a
Substrate with a Superhydrophilic
Photocatalytic Surface, and Method of
Making Thereof
Filing Date : August 13, 1999
Examiner : M. Padgett
Group Art Unit : 1762
Attorney Docket : 628365009012

DECLARATION OF YUKIO TAKANO
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. 1.132

I, Yukio Takano, declare and state as follows:

1. I am currently employed by Toto Frontier Research Ltd. ("TFR"). TFR is an affiliate of Toto Ltd., the owner of the above-referenced patent application. TFR has an exclusive license from Toto Ltd. for the technology described and claimed in the above-referenced patent application. TFR is responsible for licensing that technology to others.

2. My position at TFR is the general manager. I have held that position for approximately three years. During that time period, and prior thereto, I have had responsibility for licensing the technology described in the above-referenced application.

3. Toto's superhydrophilic photocatalytic coating technology, as described in the above-referenced patent application, has been licensed to more than 30 companies worldwide. Many of the licenses are in Japan and are limited to Japanese patents and patent applications.

Four licenses, however, include the United States as a licensed territory. One of the licensees in the United States is PPG Industries.

4. PPG is in the process of introducing a coated glass product that uses the self-cleaning and anti-fogging methods described in the above-referenced patent application. The coated glass product of PPG is called "Sunclean" and has a photocatalytic superhydrophilic coating; my understanding is that the contact angle with water, after UV irradiation, is less than 10°. The above-referenced patent application is included in the license to PPG, as are related patents, such as U.S. Patent No. 6,013,372 and 6,090,489.

5. When PPG announced that it would be introducing the "Sunclean" coated glass product, it attracted attention from news programs, which characterized it as a new product. The newscasters related that this would be a highly desirable product. This technology has also received attention in news programs in Japan. Two examples of such news programs are recorded on the VHS videotape attached hereto. A recording of these news programs was shown at the interview with the Examiner on April 22, 2003.

6. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

July 15, 2003

Yukio Takano

Yukio Takano